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Ó Domhnaill Abú

IN HOC SIGNO VINCES

O Donnell Clan Newsletter No. 18

Spring 1992

Crossing Ballyshannon Bridge, 1954 Rally.

Escape Commemorated

I am indebted to Tadhg Mac Cionnaithe of the Irish Ramblers' Club for sending me the following account of this year's 'Art O'Neill Walk' and giving me permission to publish it here. V. O'Donnell.

The dramatic escape of Red Hugh O'Donnell and Art O'Neill from Dublin Castle on 6th January 1592 and their subsequent flight was re-enacted by the Irish Ramblers' Club, 36 members of which set off at midnight on 3rd/4th January from the castle's main gate and walked the 40 miles to Glenmalure in County Wicklow.

Red Hugh had been kidnapped in Rathmullan over four years previously and the year before had managed to break out only to be recaptured in Wicklow. At the time of the second escape he was 19 years old. Art O'Neill seems to have been either a hostage for the good behavior of his family or perhaps a prisoner like Red Hugh. Although older than Red Hugh, he was not as fit and was injured in dropping from the castle wall to the street below; an injury which was to greatly hinder the escape. A brother of Art's, Henry, also escaped but he lost his companions in the city and found his own way back to Ulster.

History records that the weather was appaling - cold, heavy sleet, snow and poor visibility; their clothing and footware were inadequate and several years in prison in conditions best left to the imagination left them totally unfit for the ordeal to come.

They did however have a guide to take them to their destination. They were heading for Glenmalure in Co. Wicklow, that isolated impregnable valley deep in the mountains and the home of Fiach MacHugh O'Beirne; the same Fiach who in August 1580 had lured an English army to its slaughter deep in this glen and who was well known throughout the land as Elizabeth's number one enemy in Leinster.

Unlike our heros, the latter day Ramblers were blessed with near perfect walking conditions - a beautiful mild night and excellent visibility and no hostile soldiers to pursue them. Their route out of the city was Clanbrassil Street, Kimmage, Firhouse and Kilbride which is as plausible a reconstruction of the route Red Hugh and Art took as can be made today. A few miles after crossing the Liffey and after about 20 miles on the roads, the walkers took to the hills for the remaining 20 miles, up the slopes of Black Hill and into Glenbride through Billy Byrne's Gap where dawn broke. After crossing the Wicklow Gap road they proceeded into Glenreemore. It was almost certainly here where the escapees, in the dense fog, missed the easier route - so obvious in clear weather - out of this valley and into Glenmalure; they seem to have gone on too far to the end of the glen where at the foot of the rocky heights, Art lay down with exhaustion. Red Hugh stayed with him whilst the guide went on the last few miles to Glenmalure. There must have been frantic excitement there when the word came through that the two fugitives were in difficulties in the mountains and the Wicklow men immediately rushed to their aid. When they arrived at Glenreemore, Art had died of exposure and Red Hugh was close to death. A marble plaque and a small stone cross mark the spot where he died and where according to Lughaidh O'Cleirigh, he is buried. At the top of the heights which he failed to climb, a big wooden cross, 'Art's Cross', is erected to his memory. The inscription on the plaque reads as follows -

"In san ait seo de reir bhealeideas
na ndaoine do cailleadh ART O NEILL
le linn do fein agus
AODH RUADH O Domhnaill bheith ar an
slighe o Chaislean Atha Cliath go
Gleann Maolughra sa bhliadhain 1592
Pro Fide et Patria".

After pausing to pay their respects to Art, the Ramblers climbed out of the glen to the cross and thence to Glenmalure where the walk officially ended. The 40 miles took some 15 hours to complete and special commemorative certificates were issued.

This walk is an annual event which takes place on the weekend nearest to the Ephiphany and starts at midnight at the gates of Dublin Castle.

THE BOOK OF O'DONNELL'S DAUGHTER

The manuscript bearing the title LEABHAR INGHINE I DHOMHNAILL is presently preserved in the Bibliotheque Royale, Brussels (number 6131 x 6133). Bound in original covers, its leaves measure ten and a quarter inches by eight inches but only a little over half its 153 folios are written upon. It contains a collection of poems and other matter of particular interest to the owner or owner's family. It is difficult to say if any of the writing was done in Ireland - more likely in Flanders.

The first entry is a long poem lamenting the death of Red Hugh. Most of those not dealing with with Red Hugh are addressed to his brothers, father or kinsmen.

Of the dozen or so poets who have contributed to this volume(many in their own hand) the following are probably the best known - Fearghal og Mac an Bhaird, Eoghan Rua Mac an Bhaird, Eochaidh O hEodhasa(a Fermanagh bard) and Tadhg Dall O hUiginn.

As far as can be deduced, the 'daughter' must have been either Nuala or Margaret(both sisters of Red Hugh) but as Nuala's name appears many times and Margaret's only once, it is quite likely that the book belonged to the former.

The cover bears many scribblings. Here are some -

Leabhar inghine i Dhomhnaill
Liber poematum O Donelli
Lr Poematum o donellij
Cionnus ticc eire gan aodh (1)
Deus
Mo bheannacht chugat (2)
Dfhios an fo an pend no an dercc (3)
Madamoyeselle
Madama
Mada
deus meus

Nuala who went with her brothers, Rory and Caffir, to Rome returned to Flanders after their sudden deaths in 1608, bringing with her Rory's young son, Hugh, later known as Hugh Albert(see ODA Nos. 8 & 14). The following lines relate to Nuala's stay in Italy -

"San Eadaill na neas dtana-
ionand is eg Nualadh-
ata geis chnomhoighe Cuinn
croloighe dha heis oruinn.
Nualaidh dhuaislionmhar doigh caich
mairfidh go laithe an luanbhraith
tosach garma chru gCriomhthain
clu a hanma adir Eiriondchaibh."

(In Italy of the narrow waterfalls-
'tis equivalent to Nuala's death-
is the swan of Conn's nut-plain,
grief lies on us after her.

Nuala the bountiful, hope of all;
until the Judgment Day shall live
among Irishmen the fame of her,
foremost choice of the race of Criomhthan.)

And the following describes Nuala's arrival in Louvain with the young O'Donnell -

"Ionmhuin sgribhionn sgaoilter sonn
mor mbeadhgadh do bhean asom
saor a Dhe ar aithleonadh inn
aithbheodhadh e dom inntinn.

Da mairdis a ffaca fein
duaislibh Gaoidheal guirt righNeill
do bheith fath faoilte don dreim
a tteath sgaoilte don sgribheinn.

An naoidhe tainicc tar tuinn
biodh nach beith na Ua Domhnaill
diol e gach muirne da mhet
go mbe ar cCoimdhe ag a choimhet.

Aodh O Domhnuill ga ttam do
gan daois sunn acht seacht mbliadhno
damhna mo riogh robhaidh linn
sgolair rod sgriobh in sgribhinn."

(I like well the letter I now open
excitement it has stirred in me-
save us O Lord from harm again-
the news is revival to my soul.

Those I have seen, nobles of the Gael,
of Niall's land - if they did live-
would have cause for joy
upon the opening of this letter.

For the child that has come from overseas
although not yet O Donnell
is worthy of attachment
in God's keeping may he be.

Hugh O'Donnell - in one word-
seven years aged here has come:
the makings of my King, I salute him-
a scholar wrote thee, writing.)

Folio 148 contains a list of first lines of poems along with, in most cases, the composer's name and date. From these dates and dates of some of the events mentioned in the book it would seem that the collection was begun in the early seventeenth century and continued beyond 1650.

All in all, though somewhat of a young girl's scrap book, it is a very interesting source and adds alot to our knowledge of that era of O'Donnell history, an era full of change and grief. When one considers the untimely death of Red Hugh in Spain, and of his two brothers, Rory and Caffir, in Rome, the rest of the family in exile with no hope of every recovering their lands in Ireland, it is little wonder that this book is so full of poems lamenting the plight of those left to mourn, e.g. Clarence Mangan's translation of Mac an Bhaird's "An Bhean a fuair feall ar an bhFeart" -

"O woman of the piercing wail,
Who mournest o'er yon mound of clay
With sigh and groan,
Would God thou wert among the Gael!
Thou wouldst not then from day to day
Weep thus alone."

(more in ODA No. 8).

(1) How fares Ireland without Hugh?
(2) My blessing to you.
(3) To try if the pen is good or the ink.

Irish Echo 11-17 Dec. 1991.

Chicago Native O'Donnell Has Day in the Sun

By Jim Fallon

FT. LAUDERDALE — Born during one of America's worst depressions, the grandson of an Irish farmer from Ballymacarberry, Co. Waterford, has nonetheless taken his rightful place in the sun.

As the publisher of Ft. Lauderdale's *Sun-Sentinel*, 59-year-old Thomas Patrick O'Donnell, a Chicago native, oversees one of South Florida's largest metropolitan daily newspaper enterprises — 1,500 employees and six news bureaus stretching from Washington, D.C., to Miami.

"Our main focus is South Florida. But we also gather vital information from the international level on down," said O'Donnell, who also is the firm's president and chief executive officer.

Despite a sagging economy and strong competition from other news-gathering sources, electronic and print, the *Sun-Sentinel* has managed steady growth under O'Donnell's stewardship. "And we'll continue to grow," he said.

But the ascent into the solar system didn't happen in a flash. It started in 1955 when O'Donnell was named an advertising representative with the *Chicago Tribune*, the flagship of the Chicago-based Tribune Co., which also owns and operates the *Sun-Sentinel* and which until March owned New York's troubled *Daily News*.

Thomas P. O'Donnell of the Fort Lauderdale Sun Sentinel.

'The strength of the Irish spirit and the warmth of the Irish character will prevail and spread.'
— Thomas O'Donnell

Simultaneously, the new employee attended night classes at nearby Northwestern University, eventually earning a master's degree in marketing.

"When the right door opened I wanted to be prepared to pass through, swiftly," O'Donnell said.

His first major opportunity came in 1970. Appointed vice president and marketing director of the *Chicago Tribune*, a position held until 1981 when the Tribune Co. named him executive vice president and general manager. In 1983, he was named to his present post, 28 years after joining the organization.

Meanwhile, the ex-caddy and former U.S. Army corporal served one term as president of Chicago's Fellowship Club, an Irish group devoted to Celtic causes and culture. Later, involved in the Irish Children's Fund, O'Donnell helped bring Irish youngsters from both Northern Ireland and the Republic to to the U.S. for eight weeks in the summer months.

"Giving those kids a chance to gain a better understanding of each other and perhaps develop lifelong, meaningful relationships, was a most satisfying experience," O'Donnell said.

Chicago Roots

But as a young man growing up on Chicago's Irish Southside, O'Donnell, a die-hard White Sox fan, nevertheless dreamed of becoming another Ted Williams, the Boston Red Sox Hall of Famer. But he knew there would never be another Splendid Splinter. So fantasy yielded to reality. Friends, he said, encouraged him to make something of himself. "They expected me to succeed and passed on these constructive attitudes to me," O'Donnell said.

Being Irish in South Florida is a personal and spiritual matter to O'Donnell.

"The strength of the Irish spirit and the warmth of the Irish character will prevail and spread . . . grow and prosper here as it has across the world," he said.

O'Donnell Clan Gathering 1954.

As another Clan Gathering looms on the horizon I consider it appropriate to cast an eye back onto the first(that I know of) in 1954. According to a report in the Donegal Annual of that year the programme, which was organised by a local committee as part of An Tostal celebrations, began at Ballyshannon on Easter Sunday when at 10 a.m. the Minister for External Affairs, Mr. Frank Aiken, hoisted the Tostal flag over Allingham Bridge, Ballyshannon. This heralded the formal reception of 'The O'Donnell' (Mr. John O'Donnell, Monkstown, Co. Dublin), to the territory of his ancestors. Present were many important figures from Church, State and Local Government, as were many O'Donnells including Count Gabriel of Austria. Present, also, was a Guard of Honour from the F.C.A. under the command of Lieut. L. J. Emerson, led by Ballyshannon Brass and Reed Band.

To the strains of 'O'Donnell Abu', 'The O'Donnell' crossed the bridge into Tir Chonaill accompanied by Count Gabriel, Rev. Fr. Terence O'Donnell, O.F.M., Rupert Coughlan and Mr. F. P. Britton, Chairman of the Ballyshannon Tostal Council. Local schoolboys lined the bridge each holding a replica of 'An tSlat Bhan', the old Gaelic symbol of chieftainship.

On arrival at the Market Place, 'The O'Donnell' was greeted by Mr. J. Gillespie P.C. who presented him with 'An tSlat Bhan'. The official party then mounted the platform where Senator Micheal Og McFadden presided. Among the dignitaries on the platform was the late Pa O'Donnell T.D.

After the Minister delivered an address of welcome in Irish the O'Donnell Standard was presented to 'The O'Donnell' by Mr. T.C. MacDonagh, then the great gathering stood to attention as the band played 'Faith of our Fathers' and the National Anthem.

Later, a crowded congreration was present in St. Patrick's Church for the Solemn High Mass celebrated by Rev. Desmond O'Donnell, O.M.I., a native of Ballyshannon, assisted by five other priests including Fr. Terence O'Donnell who preached the sermon and blessed the O'Donnell Standard. During the Consecretation, the F.C.A. Guard of Honour presented arms and sounded the salute.

The following day, Easter Monday, the scene shifted to Donegal Town where, "in the shadows of the ruins of the ancient castle of the O'Donnells, the O'Donnell Clan Association was formed and a big number of O'Donnells were invested as members of the Association, of which 'The O'Donnell' is the leader. Mr. P. O'Donnell T.D., was elected Tanaiste for the Clan in Donegal and it was agreed that the organising committee of the Rally of the Clans, in conjunction with the Donegal Historical Society, should continue to look after the Association's affairs for a further year when it is hoped the Association will be able to take over its own administration." [To the best of my knowledge, nothing more happened regarding the Association, but someone somewhere must have the register in which members were enrolled, and the present Association, formed in 1989, would be delighted to learn of its present location. Ed.]

Monday's events, then, continued with a lecture by Rupert S. O'Cochlain who traced the history of the main branches of the Clan. Later, a large crowd including many dignitaries watched the colourful pageant. 20 units personifying the successive generations of the O'Donnell dead filed past a guard of honour of the present day army to the accompaniment of appropriate Irish tunes played by St. Joseph's Brass and Reed band, Strabane.

The parade then moved to O'Donnell's Castle where, to the sound of the General Salute, the O'Donnell Standard was hoisted on a flagpole high over the tower. The ceremony concluded with the playing of 'O'Donnell Abu' and the National Anthem.

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As a part of Easter Sunday's celebrations, the first county museum, under the care of the Donegal Historical Society, was opened at the Franciscan Friary, Rossnowlagh where it has remained since.

Front cover: Entering Tir Chonaill 1954.
L. to R. Rupert O Cochlain, Fr. Terence O'Donnell, John O'Donel(The O'Donnell), Count Gabriel O'Donell of Austria, Fergus Britton, Hugh O'Donel(son of John, today Fr. Hugh, O.F.M.), Roisin Coughlan(nee O'Donnell), and a boy with a 'Slat Bhan'.

HUGH ROE O'DONNELL'S ADDRESS TO HIS SOLDIERS BEFORE THE BATTLE OF THE CURLEW MOUNTAINS.

Brother chiefs, and clansmen loyal, tried in many a bloody fray;
God be thanked these robber Saxons come to meet us here to-day.
Boasting Clifford, Essex minion, swears he'll make the rebels flee-
We will give him hearty greeting, like to that at Ashanee. (1)
What though traitor Celts oppose us - be their number three to one?
Greater glory to Clan Connell, when this tough day's work is done.
Shrived at Holy Mass this morning, danger we may fearless dare;
For we draw the sword of justice, shielded all in faith and prayer.
Not for conquest, or for vengeance, on this blessed Lady Day,
Not in strength or numbers trusting, do we face their proud array;
But for Holy Mary's honour, by their tainted lips defiled,
For the sacred rights of freemen, for the mother, maid, and child.
Prone and bleeding lies our country, sorrow clouds her crownless brow,
All the lines of peerless beauty limned in ghastly colours now.
In the light of glories olden beaming through our dark disgrace,
See the madd'ning wrongs and insults heaped upon our fallen race!
Roofless homestead, broken altar, slaughtered priest, dishonoured maid-
Children of an outraged mother! whet ye well the thirsty blade.
Scorning rock and brushwood cover, rush like swooping eagles forth,
Hard and home push every pike-head, sinewy spearsmen of the North!
Cleave in twain the lustful Saxon, tame Dunkellin's soaring pride,
Smite the double-souled O'Connors - traitors false to every side. (2)
Down upon them, Banagh's chieftain! sweep their ranks your spears before,
As the North wind sweeps the stubble through the gap of Barnes-More.
Forward! forward! brave McDermott, strike for fair Moylurg's domain,
For yon lake in beauty sleeping, for the holy island's fane. (3)
Strike! and drive the swinish Saxon, herding in their sacred shade,
Far from Boyle's old abbey cloisters, where your father's bones are laid.
Holy Virgin! we implore thee, by that abbey's rifled shrine, (4)
Columcille of Doire Calgach, patron of O'Donnell's line, (5)
Good St. Francis! for the glory of thy name in Donegal,
Speed ye now Tirconnell's onset, till we rout them one and all.
Should O'Donnell fall in combat - if the foe be forced to yield,
Better death I never pray for, than to fall upon the field,
Where the cause of Erin triumphed, and the Saxon was laid low,
With that green flag floating o'er me, and my face against the foe.
Never chieftain of Clan Dalaigh to th' invader bowed the knee;
By the black years of my bondage, it shall ne'er be done to me.
I would rather angry ocean rolled o'er castle, cot, and hall,
Than see any Saxon bodach rule in royal Donegal.
Deathless fame in song and story will enshroud the men who died,
Fighting God's and freedom's battle bravely by O'Donnell's side.
Great will be his meed of glory, honoured long the victor's name,
Pointing proudly to her kinsman, many a maid will tell his fame;
"Lo! he fought at Doonaveragh," aged men will whispering say,
And make way before the altar for the heroes of to-day.
Gleaming bright through dark'ning ages will this great day's memory glide,
Like the Saimer's bright-wav'd waters glancing onward to the tide.

This battle was fought on the 15th August, 1599. The Irish were commanded by Red Hugh and other chieftains; the English by Sir Conyers Clifford, Governor of Connaught. Before the battle, according to the Four Masters, O'Donnell, who had the day before fasted in honour of the Blessed Virgin, "as he was wont to do," "caused Mass to be celebrated for himself and the forces in general, and after making his confession and rigidly repenting of his sins, he received the Eucharist, and commanded his forces to pray to God fervently for the salvation of their souls in the first place, and to deliver them from the great danger which awaited them from the English." He then addressed a stirring harangue to his soldiers in the Irish language (given at length in O'Sullivan Beare), the substance which is expressed in the following verses. O'Donnell was completely victorious; Sir Conyers Clifford, many of his officers, and nearly 1,500 of his men were killed on the field or in the flight. The Four Masters add, "That the army offered up thanks to God and the Blessed Virgin Mary for the victory, and the unanimous voice of the men was, that it was not by the force of arms the English were defeated, but by the supplication of O'Donnell and his forces, after he had received the Body abd Blood of Christ in the beginning of that day after his fast the previous day in honour of the Blessed Virgin."

1 Ashanee - Ballyshannon, where O'Donnell routed Clifford and his forces on Lady Day, two years earlier.
2 O'Connor Don and O'Connor Roe on this occasion, not for the first time, joined the English.
3 Lough Ce, at the foot of the Curlews, in which was a monastery dedicated to the Holy Trinity.
4 The Cistercian Abbey of Boyle was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin.
5 Doire Calgach- the oak grove of Calgach- the ancient name of Derry.

All of the above is copied from a book entitled 'PAPERS AND ADDRESSES' published in 1909 by Most Rev. John Healy. The poem was often requested by subscribers who had heard it or remembered parts of it. I am thankful to Eamonn de Burca, De Burca Rare Books, 27 Priory Dr., Blackrock, Co. Dublin for furnishing it. An article on this famous battle will appear in a later issue. V. O'D.

NEWS

Plans for the Gathering are much the same as reported in the last two issues with many minor details being worked out, some of which cannot be finalised until closer to the time.

At present, an attractive scroll(suitable for framing) is being designed for members of the Clan Association, this will replace the present membership card. It is also planned to do a re-run of the book published at the last Gathering. Only 500 copies were printed then and all sold within a few months. It is quite likely that Saturday's bus tour will spend the evening in Annagry, heartland of today's O'Donnell territory, also a gaelic-speaking area. Here we hope to enjoy a social evening with a meal followed by the best of gaelic entertainment. The pageant being organised by a FAS TEAMWORK scheme we hope to see performed at the Rock of Doon on the Sunday. There are many other such ideas in the pipeline but the main ingredient to make it a successful event is your presence. An O'Donnell Clan Gathering can't exist without a gathering of O'Donnells. So, do your best to join us and don't forget to tell others.

If you know of any Irish publications circulating in your area, perhaps you could place an add for us or give us the name and address so that we can do it. We are very thankful to those who have done such work so far. Bookings and inquiries are coming in daily.

We are delighted to help with accommodation. B&B in houses costs about £15 per night per person, while the same in hotels costs about double that. Time of commencement on Friday evening has not been finalised but it will probably be 7-8 o'clock.

If there are enough people about on Monday morning a fashion show will be put on by Magees, manufacturers of the world-famous Donegal Tweed. And we would like to have a get-to-gether of Clan members in the afternoon to discuss Clan matters and history. So, don't be in a hurry to leave. V. O'Donnell.

TREMENDOUS WORK

Have you ever pondered on the derivation or exact meaning of English words in common use, such as aegis, affidavit, alibi, amnesty, extempore, and so on. If finding out occasioned you trouble, there's no longer any reason for remaining "in ignorance". The answers to all your queries are contained in a publication which has just gone into circulation, issued by the Institute of Public Administration in association with the Irish Permanent Building Society. Its main title is Word Gloss, and it is described as a compilation of words and concepts you need to know, where they come from, and what they mean. It is the work of Mr. Jim O'Donnell, assistant director general I.P.A., and noted writer, who over 290 pages presents his study of the subject in masterly fashion. It's more than a glossary; it's history as well, and better still, it's completely free of any hi 'falutin exercises in mannerisms. If it must be referred to as a glossary, it can be described as a glossary with a difference and well worth the cost — £9.95. It has a special place on my bookshelves. If you can't purchase a copy at your local bookshop contact Institute of Public Administration, 56-7 Lansdowne Road, Dublin, 'phone (01) 697011.

Donegal Democrat 4th Jan. '91.
WORD GLOSS number is ISBN 1-872002-45-5 and Jim's FAX No. is 01-698644.

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The World Book Of O'Donnells

By now many people will have received a circular from a company called Halberts Family Heritage offering the "World Book Of O'Donnells". This offer is not unique to O'Donnells as reported in the last issue of 'O Domhnaill Abu'. I ordered one because, anything about O'Donnells, I want to know about it. Well, a few days ago I received it, so now I know about it, and here are a few of my comments.

The first section deals with early Irish history and is very general. I have not studied it in any detail as I am only concerned with the sections pertaining to the O'Donnells.

Section II (11 pages) deals with, or purports to deal with, the origin of the surname, yet only four lines deal with the actual subject and I quote, "The surname O'Donnell appears to be patronymical in origin. Our research indicates that it can be associated with the Irish, meaning, "grandson of Domnall(world mighty)". Although this interpretation is the result of onomastic research, you may find other meanings for the O'Donnell family name." No mention is made of Domhnall Mor or Dalach.

Section III (10 pages) deals with Coats of Arms and the only mention of O'Donnells is on page 49 where the O'Donnell Arms (according to them) is illustrated, 3 stars, 2 lions and a right hand - a far cry from the familiar hand-held cross. No motto is given.

Section IV is entitled 'How to Discover your Ancestors' and may be of use if your ancestors were American.

Those four sections take up 90 pages, almost half the book, the rest is devoted to the "O'Donnell International Registry" which, according to the introduction, was compiled from the following - 'electoral rolls, telephone directories, automobile registrations and cross street directories from eleven countries'.

"The following registry," it claims, "is the result of searching through large data-bases in many nations. As many Odonnell householders as possible have been recorded and included in the Odonnell International Registry. Thousands of dollars and months of effort were required in order to provide you with this valuable information."

It also states - "After searching through 150 million international records, you will find provided the most complete International Registry of households sharing your name around the world. You'll discover specific statistical information about the Odonnell population in Austraila, Canada, England, Ireland, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Scotland, the United States of America and Wales. If you find there are no Odonnell households listed for a particular country, this valuable knowledge will save enormous time when you conduct your family research."

That last line, to my mind, is very important as it will save people much time and expense by not researching in the following places - Northern Ireland which has only two households, one in Antrim and one in Londonderry; Dublin, with only one household in Bray; Co. Mayo, to where over 2,000 O'Donnells were sent during Cromwell's Plantation, today has only 9 households, 8 of which are in Ballaghadereen; Co. Donegal is not even mentioned, neither are the following Counties - Cavan, Galway, Cork, Wicklow, Sligo, Leitrim, Meath, West Meath, Louth, Monaghan, Kildare and Longford; Germany, one household; Austria, none; and Spain, like Donegal, doesn't get a mention.

So, where have all those O'Donnells gone?

V.O'Donnell.

Teamwork scheme for Red Hugh O'Donnell

Four hundred years ago this year, Red Hugh O'Donnell was inaugurated 'The O'Donnell' at Doon Rock, near Kilmacrennan. Accordingly, as part of the Year of the O'Donnell celebrations, the Donegal Genealogical Centre, in partnership with FÁS and Donegal County Council's Arts Committee, will set up an ongoing project over the coming months to construct a large scale street pageant which will re-enact and celebrate this auspicious inauguration.

FÁS have provided funding towards the recruitment of twelve project workers under a new TEAMWORK scheme which will commence next month and be based in Letterkenny. The TEAMWORK scheme will include ten project workers (who must be aged between 17 and 25 years) and two project supervisors. Interviews will be held at the FÁS Training Centre, Ballyraine, Letterkenny, between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. on Monday next, February 24th.

The project will run for 39 weeks and the first phase will entail the construction of the pageant for enactment at various centres around the county over the summer months. The first public performance is scheduled for July.

The project will involve much radical costume making and design, set design and construction of a large model of Doon Rock, prop-making, which may include everything from swords, shields and armour to animals, banners, masks, etc. If you are currently unemployed (and aged between 17 and 25; supervisors may be over 25) and have previous theatre, visual arts, set construction or allied skills, please contact Una Willis at FÁS, Letterkenny, on (074) 22200, or Donegal County Library (074) 21968 for further information.

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